Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of the claims:

1. (currently amended) A method of automatic speech recognition (ASR), comprising:

receiving a speech utterance from a user;

assessing resources by monitoring both port utilization and processing utilization of each of a plurality of different ASR engines to determine which of the plurality of different ASR engines are busy serving users;

assigning the speech utterance to a single ASR engine when the plurality of different ASR engines are busy such that the port and processing utilizations are assessing resources is within a threshold value;

assigning the speech utterance to the a plurality of different ASR engines when the plurality of different ASR engines are not busy such that the port and processing utilizations are assessing resources is within a threshold value; and

generating text of the speech utterance with either the single ASR engine or the plurality of different ASR engines.

2. – 3. (canceled)

4. (original) The method of claim 1 wherein assessing resources further comprises monitoring memory utilization and input/output utilization.

5. (original) The method of claim 1 wherein assessing resources further comprises monitoring a number of users providing speech utterances.

6. (original) The method of claim 1 wherein assigning the speech utterance to a single ASR engine if assessing resources is within a threshold value occurs when port utilization of the single ASR engine is lower than a port utilization threshold of about 80%.

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7. (original) The method of claim 1 wherein assigning the speech utterance to a plurality of different ASR engines if assessing resources is within a threshold value occurs when port utilization of two ASR engines is lower than a predefined threshold of about 75%.

8. (currently amended) An automatic speech recognition (ASR) system comprising:

means for processing a digital input signal from an utterance of a user;

means for evaluating resources of the ASR system to determine whether the ASR system is busy processing utterances of users by monitoring port utilization and available processing power of each of a group of ASR engines; and

means for selecting between a single ASR engine and the a group of ASR engines to recognize the utterance of the user, wherein the means for selecting utilizes the evaluation of resources to select the single ASR engine when the port utilization and available processing power are within a threshold and the ASR system is busy processing the utterances of the users and to select the group of ASR engines when the port utilization and available processing power are within another threshold and the ASR system is not busy processing the utterances of the users.

9. – 10. (canceled)

11. (original) The ASR system of claim 8 further comprising a means for combing results of ASR engines if the group of ASR engines is selected, the group of ASR engines being adapted to provide a more accurate recognition of the utterance than a single ASR engine.

12. (original) The ASR system of claim 8 wherein the means for evaluating resources of the system evaluates resources to simultaneously run multiple ASR engines.

13. (original) The ASR system of claim 8 wherein the means for evaluating resources of the system evaluates ASR ports, system resources, and call handlers.

14. (currently amended) A system, comprising:

a computer system comprising a central processing unit coupled to a memory and resource management application; and

a plurality of different automatic speech recognition (ASR) engines coupled to the computer system, wherein the resource management application computer system assesses resources being used by each of the plurality of different ASR engines by monitoring port utilization and available processing power of each of the plurality of different ASR engines, and the computer system selects a single ASR engine to analyze a speech utterance when the system is busy such that the port utilization and the processing power are within a threshold and selects multiple ASR engines to analyze the speech utterance when the system is not busy such that the port utilization and the processing power are within another threshold.

15. (original) The system of claim 14 wherein the computer system selects an ASR engine that has most available resources.

16. (original) The system of claim 14 further comprising a telephone network comprising at least one switching service point coupled to the computer system.

17. (original) The system of claim 16 further comprising at least one communication device in communication with the switching service point to provide the speech utterance.

18. (original) The system of claim 14 wherein the resource management application comprises a recognition proxy component and a resource monitoring component.

19. (original) The system of claim 18 wherein the resource management component collects and analyzes information about the resources available on the system.

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20. (original) The system of claim 19 wherein the resource monitoring component mediates between the plurality of ASR engines and the resource management component.